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THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

21 August 1987

National Intelligence Council

Memo for:

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We need your help. Progress on the estimates scheduled for NFIB this coming week has been slow; it became apparent by late today that we ought to pursue the option of shifting NFIB from Thursday the 27th to Friday the 28th of August. The attached memo for Bob Gates' morning book details the circumstances.

Sorry we didn't come to this realization sooner, but we had hoped that coordination of these papers would go more quickly. In any event, coordination is now complete, and cleanup and preparatory work over the weekend and early Monday should allow us to get all three papers on the street by Monday noon, although there is always the possibility of further delay. From this point on, the longer it takes to get the papers out, the more attractive shifting NFIB to Friday appears. If a move to Friday turns out to be unworkable, however, we would propose to stick with Thursday. We could still handle it, even if distribution were delayed until late Monday; rescheduling to the following week would not be desirable for the reasons outlined in the memo to Bob.

We'll be checking with you Monday morning on Bob's schedule. If Friday is workable for him, we'll then check with the offices of the other NFIB principals and reconfirm the schedule with you ASAP. Thank you for your help and understanding. Good to have you and Bob back.

Sincerely,


Barry Horton~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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21 August 1987

National Intelligence Council

Memo for: DDCI

Bob - Welcome back! We all hope that you had a real chance to relax and enjoy your vacation--despite all the materials we kept sending you. What follows is a quick update:

[] NIE telephone vote is scheduled for completion Monday COB. State has now proposed some replacement language; if all others do not support it, we'll need to take the paper to NFIB for a quick resolution. (We have forwarded a package elaborating on the issue and enclosing the paper and State proposal.)

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[] SNIE completed coordination today. Controversy over the opening technical discussion led to its removal and the initiation of a separate effort by Dave Einsel. Reps have asked for a quick look at the revised paper at a cleanup session Monday AM. We anticipate no problems, and look for distribution to principals for NFIB consideration by noon. (We have sent you a package that elaborates on the issues and encloses the paper.)

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[] NIE and [] SNIE took longer than expected for coordination; completion didn't come until late this evening. There were no great overriding controversies, but a lot of lesser issues to be ironed out in line-by-line discussion. The papers are being retyped this weekend. There will be some work to be done on Monday before the papers will be ready for distribution to principals. We hope to be on the street w/ them by noon, but could be delayed until later in the day, as could the Pakistan paper.

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-Given these developments, it has become apparent that we ought to pursue the option of shifting the upcoming

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NFIB from Thursday the 27th to Friday the 28th of August. We will be checking Monday AM [] on your schedule, and then with the offices of the other NFIB principals if it appears that you could support such a shift. If a Friday NFIB appears to be workable, we would propose to go ahead and slip the date after reconfirming []. If it is not workable, however, we would propose to stick with Thursday, even if distribution were to be delayed until late Monday. Even such a delay would not present insurmountable problems, just an uncomfortably tight period for principal review, not unprecedented for fast-tracks like these. We would not propose slipping these topics to the following week, given their time sensitivity and the fact that the key NIOs needed for NFIB discussions will be gone then, NIO/LA for the entire week and NIO/NESA for the last three days, when we would ordinarily schedule NFIB. Indeed, one is already scheduled for PM 3 September--3 topics slated so far, as noted below.

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-For the 3 September NFIB, we should be ready with the [] papers, whose pre-coordination drafts you have seen, and the [] paper, whose pre-coordination draft has been forwarded to you separately. Carl Ford has been busy on other projects as well; forwarded to you separately are pre-coordination drafts of an IIM [] and an IIA on the [] [] have been forwarded to the DCI in this week's pouch.

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-Charlie Allen has had some problems with both of his IIAs. [] will now be stripped to the essentials to answer Amb Bremer's questions and forwarded by Charlie as a "sense of the community" memo.

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[] has been through much NIC comment and two coordination sessions. Charlie is reworking it over the weekend, aiming toward a product that passes muster as a response to Amb Abramowitz' request that will serve as a baseline community position for future reference.

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- Finally, I have forwarded a package of PARs on senior NIC personnel for whom you had agreed to act as reviewer. I apologize in advance for the bulk, but they all came due at once, and hopefully the proposed endorsements will facilitate your review. Once done, there should be little in the way of PARs to come your way out of the NIC for some time to come.

Again, welcome back! We stand ready to respond to any questions you may have, and will see you as the week progresses.

Very respectfully,


Barry Horton

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